

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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GENEVA FOR DISTO AND CSCE; VIENNA FOR MBFR

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY PAPERS

FEATURED BRANDT'S RESIGNATION AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS;

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ALSO KISSINGER IN MIDEAST. TUESDAY PAPERS REPORTED SENATE

VOTE ON VIETNAM ARMS UPSETS WHITE HOUSE; WASHPOST INSIDE REPORTED KENNEDY HOPEFUL OF NUCLEAR TEST BAN.

1A. WEDNESDAY INSIDE WASHPOST REPORTED SENATE UNIT SETS BACK MISSILE PLAN; ALSO SWEDEN ASKS CURB ON UNDERGROUND TESTS. THURSDAY PAPERS REPORT SOVIET AFFIRMS RIGHT TO SEND SHIPS INTO INDIAN OCEAN. BRANDT HEADLINES HAVE INCLUDED: GERMAN CHANGE JOLTS WEST; SHIFT HURTS BREZHNEV, BRANDT WAS HIS LAST FRIEND IN WEST EUROPE. SOME EDITORIALS ON BRANDT.

2. NUCLEAR TESTS. TUESDAY WASHPOST REUTER GENEVA REPORTED SWEDEN CALLED ON US AND SOVIET UNION TO AGREE TO STOP TESTING NUCLEAR WEAPONS UNDER GROUND, MRS. THORSSON TELLING

25-NATION DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE: EXCEPTIONAL EFFORTS HAVE BEEN DEVOTED TO THIS ITEM, BUT NO CONCRETE RESULT HAS BEEN REACHED. REUTER ADDS SHE MADE NO MENTION OF REPORTS MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON ARE ALREADY DISCUSSING OUTSIDE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE PROSPECTS FOR LIMITING UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTS THROUGH A THRESHOLD AGREEMENT BANNING BLASTS ABOVE A CERTAIN MAGNITUDE.

2A. TUESDAY WASHPOST MARDER REPORTED SEN KENNEDY IN TELEVISION INTERVIEW MONDAY NIGHT SAID HIS RECENT TALKS WITH SOVIETS INDICATE THERE CAN BE EARLY US-SOVIET ACCORD TO BAN UNDERGROUND TESTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. KENNEDY SAID THERE CAN BE A SIGNING OF COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY IN NEXT VERY FEW MONTHS, ADDING HE EXPECTS THAT WOULD BE NO. 1 ITEM ON AGENDA IN JUNE, WERE PRESIDENT TO GO TO MOSCOW. KENNEDY SAID HE WOULD SUPPORT VISIT BY NIXON TO SIGN SUCH A TEST BAN.

3. MISSILES. WEDNESDAY WASHPOST GETLER REPORTED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE OF SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, BY 3-2 VOTE, KNOCKED OUT OF PENTAGON'S NEW BUDGET REQUEST THREE PROJECTS AIMED AT MAKING US NUCLEAR-TIPPED MISSILES MORE ACCURATE, THEREBY DEALING POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT SETBACK TO SCHLESINGER'S CONTROVERSIAL PLAN TO DEVELOP IMPROVED ACCURACY FOR US IN-

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TERCONTINENTAL-RANGE MISSILES. SUBCOMMITTEE HELD IMPROVED ACCURACY NOT NECESSARY TO PRESERVE SECURITY OF US NUCLEAR DETERRENT AND THAT SUCH PROJECTS MIGHT BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE BY SPURRING ON MORE SOVIET DEVELOPMENTS. PANEL CUT 395.8 MILLION FROM TOTAL PENTAGON BUDGET REQUEST OF 9.3 BILLION FOR WEAPONS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING 83 MILLION REQUESTED FOR WORK ON IMPROVED GUIDANCE SYSTEM FOR MINUTEMAN ICBM. VOTING FOR CUT WERE

CHAIRMAN MCINTYRE, HUGHES OF IOWA, BYRD OF VIRGINIA;
AGAINST WERE GOLDWATER DOMINICK.

4. COMMENT. LATIMES EDITORIAL NOTES UPHEAVAL IN GERMANY
COMES AT TIME WHEN MOMENTUM TOWARD UNITED EUROPE HAS AL-
READY BEEN STALLED, ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IS IN DISARRAY,
AND WORLD TRADE AND MONETARY ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN
SHAKEN BY ENERGY CRISIS, ADDING THAT AN EFFECTIVE BONN
GOVERNMENT IS IMPORTANT TO SOLUTION OF THESE PROBLEMS.
WASHSTAR SAYS BRANDT RESIGNATION ADDS TO CRISIS OF
LEADERSHIP IN WEST.

4A. NYTIMES EDITORIAL SAYS FORTUNATELY SUCCESSOR SCHMIDT
IS SKILLFUL VIGOROUS LEADER WHO CAN BE EXPECTED TO CON-

TINUE AND DEVELOP BRANDT,S POLICIES. CHANGES IN
BRITAIN FRANCE BONN COULD BRING INSTABILITY AND DANGER
BUT CHANCES ARE EQUALLY GOOD FOR NEW ERA OF PROGRESS,
ONCE WASHINGTON,TOO,RESOLVES THE CRIPPLING ISSUES THAT
NOW IMPEDE POLICY. BALTSUN ADDS SCHMIDT HAS SHARED
MANY OF KISSINGER'S VIEWS ON MONETARY AND TRADE MATTERS;
HENCE US CAN TAKE SATISFACTION IN HIS RECORD. WASHPOST
AGREES SCHMIDT IS EXPERIENCED AND ABLE, BUT SAYS EUROPE
AND ATLANTIC COMMUNITIES GREATLY NEED SOMEONE OF BRANDT'S
STATURE AND VISION. POST SAYS US HAS LOST ITS PRINCIPAL
EUROPEAN INTERLOCUTOR, THE ONE MAN MOST ABLE TO MAINTAIN
A PRODUCTIVE ATLANTIC DIALOGUE.

4B. KANSAS CITY STAR APRIL 29 EDITORIALIZED ON ATOMIC
ARMS CURBS FOR CHINA, TOO, SAYING US SHOULD ADOPT AS AN
ITEM OF HIGHEST PRIORITY TO EXPLORE WAYS OF SECURING
CHINESE PARTICIPATION IN SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS OF ARMS
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